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NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Justice Announces New Members of State Judicial Council

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George today announced the appointment of seven new members to the Judicial Council of California, the constitutional policymaking body of the California courts.

The appointees are Presiding Judge Thomas M. Maddock, Superior Court of Contra Costa County; Judge Peter P. Espinoza, Superior Court of Los Angeles County; Judge Terry B. Friedman, Superior Court of Los Angeles County; Judge Jamie Jacobs-May, Superior Court of Santa Clara County; Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl, Superior Court of Los Angeles County; Judge J. Michael Welch, Superior Court of San Bernardino County; and Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Executive Officer, Superior Court of San Diego County.

Chaired by the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council consists of 14 judicial members appointed by the Chief Justice, 4 attorney members appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors, 1 member from each house of the Legislature, 7 advisory members. The Administrative Director of the Courts serves as secretary to the council.

Established by the state Constitution in 1926, the 28-member Judicial Council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice in the nation's largest court system.

In recent years, the council has taken a leadership role in the unification of the state's municipal and superior courts, state funding of the courts, the ongoing transfer of trial court facilities from the counties to the state, jury system reforms, and numerous other initiatives to make the courts more effective in responding to the needs of Californians.

A summary of the appointments follows:

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Presiding Judge Thomas M. Maddock, of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County, was appointed in 1998 and has been Presiding Judge since 2004. Prior to his appointment, he served as a Deputy District Attorney for Contra Costa and El Dorado counties for a total of 7 years. Judge Maddock also served as Public Advisor to the California Energy Commission (1988–1991, Deputy Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs (1991–1993), Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs (1993–1995), and Undersecretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency (1995–1998). Currently, Judge Maddock is a member of the California Judges Association’s Committee on Sponsored Legislation and serves on the Judicial Council’s Trial Court Budget Working Group. Presiding Judge Maddock succeeds Judge Michael T. Garcia of the Superior Court of Sacramento County.

Judge Peter P. Espinoza, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, was appointed in 1994 and has had nearly every assignment available in his court during his 16 years on the bench. He is the current Presiding Judge of the Southeast Judicial District for the Superior Court and was the former Presiding Judge of the Southeast Municipal Court. Previously, Judge Espinoza worked in private practice and served as a Deputy Public Defender in Orange County from 1981 to 1983. He then worked as a staff attorney for San Fernando Valley Legal Services from 1980 to 1981 before serving as a Commissioner in the Los Angeles Superior Court from 1990 to 1994. Judge Espinoza has received Judicial Excellence Awards from the Criminal Courts Bar Association (2001) and the Mexican American Bar Association (2004), as well as a special recognition award from the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. Judge Espinoza played an active role as member of the Judicial Council’s Commission on the Future of the California Courts, which published “*Justice in the Balance*, 2020.” Judge Espinoza succeeds Judge Michael Nash of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County.

Judge Terry B. Friedman, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, was elected in 1994. Previously, he was a member of the California State Assembly from 1986 to 1994, Executive Director of Bet Tzedek from 1978 to 1986, and staff attorney for the Western Center on Law and Poverty from 1976 to 1978. Judge Friedman is the current President of the California Judges Association and is an advisory member of the Judicial Council. Judge Friedman has served actively on Judicial Council committees, including the Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, the Probation Services Task Force, and the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee. Currently, he is a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Judge Friedman is appointed to the position now held by Judge J. Stephen Czuleger, in anticipation that Judge Czuleger will become Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. Judge Friedman's term will begin upon Judge Czuleger becoming Presiding Judge.

Judge Jamie Jacobs-May, of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, was appointed to the bench in 1989. Prior to her appointment, she served as Deputy Attorney General in California (1974–1981), was an associate with the San Jose firm of Berliner-Cohen (1981–1983), and Deputy County Counsel for Santa Clara County (1983–1989). Judge Jacobs-May has been a member of the Judicial Council’s Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee, Judicial Service Advisory Committee, and both member and chair of the council’s Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee. She currently serves on the Judicial Council’s Civil Jury Instructions Advisory Committee and the Continuing Judicial Studies Education Committee, associated with the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER). Judge Jacobs-May succeeds Judge William J. Murray, Jr. of the Superior Court of San Joaquin County.

Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, was appointed in 1995 and is the Managing Judge for the court’s complex litigation cases. Prior to her appointment, Judge Kuhl was a partner with the Los Angeles firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson, where she focused on civil business litigation. She had the opportunity to argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court as Deputy Solicitor General during her service with the U.S. Department of Justice (1981-1986). Judge Kuhl formerly served on the Judicial Council’s Task Force on Jury Instructions, and currently serves as a member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions as well as the Collaborative Court-County Working Group on Enhanced Collections. Additionally, she is a member of the Governing Committee for the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER). Judge Kuhl succeeds Judge Richard E. L. Strauss of the Superior Court of San Diego County.

Judge J. Michael Welch, of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, was appointed in 1995 and served as the court’s Presiding Judge from 2002 to 2003. He has experience working as both a Deputy District Attorney (1968–1971) as well as a Deputy Public Defender (1987–1990) for the County of San Bernardino. Additionally, Judge Welch spent a total of 17 years in private practice and worked as a commissioner for his court (1990–1995) prior to his appointment to the bench. He is currently a member of the Judicial Council’s Probate Conservatorship Task Force and the Court Facilities Transitional Task Force. Judge Welch also has served on the council’s Presiding Judges Executive Committee, the Criminal Law Advisory Committee, and the Judicial Needs Working Group. Judge Welch is appointed to the position now held by Judge Douglas P. Miller of the Superior Court of Riverside County, in anticipation that Judge Miller will be confirmed in his appointment to the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, on June 9, 2006, and no longer will be eligible to hold a council seat for a judge of the superior court. Judge Welch’s term will end in September 2007.

Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of San Diego County, has 26 years of court administration experience, both at the trial court and state level. Prior to his work for the Superior Court in San Diego, Mr. Roddy served as the Administrative

Office of the Court's Regional Administrative Director for the Northern/Central Region (2001–2006), Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Sacramento (1989–1994), and the Assistant Executive Officer (1988–1989) of the Superior Court of San Diego County. Mr. Roddy has been active on a variety of Judicial Council committees, including the Court Executives Advisory Committee, the Court Technology Advisory Committee, the Working Group on Court Security, the Probation Services Task Force, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Jury System Improvement, and the Trial Court Budget Commission. Mr. Roddy succeeds Mr. Alan Slater, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Orange County.

Members of the council are selected through a nominating procedure designed to attract applicants from throughout the legal system with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and geographic locations.

The council's Executive and Planning Committee solicits nominations and applications and then forwards the names of three nominees for each council position to the Chief Justice for consideration. The committee gives added consideration to persons who have served on Judicial Council advisory committees or task forces.

Terms on the council are staggered, with one-third of the council's membership changing each year. New members have been appointed for three-year terms that will begin on September 15, 2006, with the exceptions noted above.

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

Note to Editors: For a more complete description of the structure and role of the state Judicial Council, including a roster of current and past members, see the *Profile of the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts* on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/documents/profilejc.pdf>.

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